

UNITED WAY OF DANE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESILIENCY FUNDING PILOT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

United Way of Dane County is pleased to announce the pilot of a new category of investments available to address urgent essential needs identified by 211 call and trend data as elevated/unaddressed due to unanticipated community conditions. Funding will be awarded through a streamlined Request for Proposals (RFP) process with the expectation that it will be expended by the end of the year in which funding is received. Minimal reporting is required.

This resource expands United Way's role in ensuring our community remains resilient in the face of uncertainties and crises.

Funding and Timeline

<i>Total Available:</i>	<i>\$119,000</i>
<i>Minimum/Maximum Award:</i>	<i>\$5,000-\$29,750</i>
<i>Application Available:</i>	<i>March 30, 2026 at 8:00 am</i>
<i>Proposals Due:</i>	<i>April 17, 2026 by 4:30 pm</i>
<i>Decisions Made:</i>	<i>By April 30, 2026</i>
<i>Notification and Funds Distributed:</i>	<i>After May 18, 2026</i>
<i>Funds Spent:</i>	<i>By December 31, 2026</i>
<i>Brief EOY Report:</i>	<i>January 15, 2027</i>

Criteria for Community Resiliency Funding

- Dane County service area.
- Does not duplicate or expand upon longer-term solutions that are supported by United Way's existing investments in the [Plan For Community Well-Being](#).
- Appropriate for one-time funding.
- Short-term investment supports an economic boost and meaningful impact.
- Can quickly and effectively help struggling families access food, shelter, utility assistance and other essential needs that present barriers to financial stability.

Eligibility

Nonprofit organizations with proposals that meet all the criteria for Community Resiliency funding are eligible to apply. Organizations that do not have a 501c3 determination from the IRS must identify a 501c3 organization to serve as their fiscal agent and accept/manage grant funds on their behalf.

Use of Funds

Community Resiliency funding is intended to provide short-term grants to nonprofit organizations who can most quickly and effectively help struggling families throughout Dane County access food, shelter, and utility assistance that present barriers to financial stability.

- Requests should be for no less than \$5,000 and no greater than \$29,750.
- The only restriction on the use of Community Resiliency funds is that they be used to provide urgently needed assistance with food, shelter, or utility expenses for individuals in Dane County, WI.
- Funding may be requested for more than one area of assistance but only **one application per organization** will be accepted. The total request may not exceed \$29,750.
- You do not need to submit a budget with your proposal.

Reporting

At the end of the year we will ask that you provide a brief narrative that tells the estimated number of people served and one of the following:

- One win from the funding provided
- One thing that changed because of the funding provided
- Who you helped, and how, because of the funding provided

How to Apply

The Community Resiliency investment process will use the e-CImpact platform for receiving and evaluating proposals.

Organizations with an existing account will need to log in to apply. Organizations without an existing account will need to create one and complete their agency profile to apply.

[Click here to access e-CImpact.](#)

For help creating an account or accessing the application, please contact Brea Grow at Brea.Grow@uwdc.org or (608) 246-4370.

For questions about the application process, eligibility, funding intent or other questions, please contact Sandy Erickson at Sandy.Erickson@uwdc.org.

**United Way of Dane County Community Resiliency Funding Pilot
Evaluation Rubric**



Maximum possible score: 20

Geographic Reach					
Evaluation Criteria		1	3	5	
Question 5	Population served in communities/cities within Dane County.	Serves limited # of small geographic areas or communities where program reach is concentrated.	Serves 1-2 well-populated geographic areas or communities w/good program reach.	Serves County-wide or in 3 or more well-populated geographic areas or communities that collectively have broad reach throughout the County.	
Estimated People Served					
Evaluation Criteria		1	3	5	
Question 6	Estimated number of people served.	Number of people served unrealistic or little impact for intended grant funding.	Number of people served is realistic and meaningful for intended grant funding.	Number of people served is extensive and will have greatest impact for intended grant funding.	
Population Served					
Evaluation Criteria		1	3	5	
Questions 7 and 8	Agency's unique positioning to serve described target population.	The applicant shows little to no unique positioning to meet community needs.	The applicant shows some unique positioning to meet community needs for diverse population(s).	The applicant demonstrates strong unique positioning &/or coordination with other providers to meet community needs for diverse population(s).	
Approach & Impact					
Evaluation Criteria		1	3	5	
Question 9	The extent to which the funding will address urgent needs/situations.	Funding request lacks feasibility and/or greatest need (food, housing, utility assistance).	Funding request demonstrates strong feasibility and/or greatest need alignment (food, housing, utility assistance) and will have meaningful impact.	Funding request demonstrates strong feasibility and/or greatest need alignment (food, housing, utility assistance) and will have greatest impact.	